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SUMMARY

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STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONSOLIDATION OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONSOLIDATION OF THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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1. INTRODUCTION - The national standard is the appropriate guide for industry, indicating principles of order, organisation, systematisation, etc. for the process of production, for the nation's commerce, and for satisfying the consumer's interests. Within the context of a country's development this agreed standard is a phenomenon which arises at a certain point of that development, as the productive forces ripen, so that efficient running of industrial concerns may gradually be attained by matching the organisation of the concerns to the requirements of standardised production and consumption.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES - When applied to an industrial firm, the national standard is a technical device for the rationalisation and simplification of products and processes and bids fair to reduce industrial costs and channel the concern's efforts toward improvement of output.

National, regional and international standards facilitate the exchange of goods and services between countries as well as making possible close scientific and technical cooperation.

The grading of standards with a view to establishing priorities within a national standardisation programme is considered indispensable, and must be based on an analysis of a whole series of factors such as economic importance, outlay involved, size of product, imports and exports, etc.; in short, a whole series of factors which give momentum to industrial development. This is what a correct grading of standards effectively aims at.

3. GROWTH OF STANDARDISATION IN HIGHLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - In the highly industrialised countries, levels of standardisation have been attained which satisfy the need of those countries to hold their own in commercial competition on the basis of suitable prices and frequent technological improvements for the benefit of national consumption, as well as to keep up positions of prestige in foreign markets which are of substantial importance for their economies.

However, certain countries still maintain anachronistic systems of weights and measures which are obviously prejudicial to international standardisation and to the spreading of technology and culture.

4. GROWTH OF STANDARDISATION IN THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - The vast majority of the under-developed countries lack national standardisation institutes and the few that exist do not function as required by the present industrial development of those countries, i.e. they do not meet the needs of accelerated industrial development.

Instituting such bodies, or else improving the existing ones, regardless of whether private or official, is therefore indispensable, particularly in view of the fact that their activities will in principle be aimed at promoting industrial development and protecting the interests of the ultimate consumers.

The "mark" or "seal of guarantee" is the consequence of good standardisation practices, and should be mentioned because it contributes to creating in the consumer an awareness of what the standard signifies and induces industrial and commercial competition resulting in greater advances.

5. ORGANSIATION OF STANDARDISATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL - Since the aims of standardisation are to meet the national interest by the stimulus it imparts to industrial development, and to protect the consumer's interests by virtue of the order it introduces in national production and in national and international commerce, there can be no doubt about the importance of organising standards at the national level and of setting up or improving the organisation responsible for discharging that function. Since standards are a product of the competition between all the sectors involved - producers, consumers, technicians and government - the benefits of standardisation will be fully felt and will provide a stepping stone to the more advanced stages of regional and international standardisation.

6. CONCLUSIONS - It is a matter of urgency to stimulate the development of standardisation in the less developed countries via ample and effective technical aid ranging from general matters of standardisation, and passing via the actual organisation of national standardisation bodies in the countries lacking them or else the re-organisation and renewed functioning of those already existing, to the creation of national standardisation laboratories and the institution of extra courses on standardisation in universities and technical and higher educational establishments and firms at national, regional and international level.

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